

We can help!

The local child support agency offers free services to parents and guardians to help them meet their responsibilities to their children.

Types of services we provide:

- Locate a parent
- Establish paternity
- Establish, modify, and enforce a court order for child support
- Establish, modify, and enforce an order for health insurance coverage



The California Department of Child Support Services does not provide legal services to parents or guardians.



*Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California*

*Kimberly Belshé, Secretary
California Health and Human Services Agency*

*Greta Wallace, Director
Department of Child Support Services*

1-866-249-0773 (toll-free)
www.childsup.ca.gov

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Supporting California's Children

Your Guide to Child Support Services



Department of
Child Support Services

Locating parents

If you don't know where the noncustodial parent is located, the local child support agency will try to find the parent to establish paternity (child's father) and/or establish, change, or enforce orders for child support.



Establishing paternity

The local child support agency can help you establish paternity with a Paternity Opportunity Program Declaration or a court order. The Declaration is a form you can fill out that must be signed by both parents to establish paternity without going to court. The local child support agency will help you arrange for testing when the child's father is in question.

Seeking health insurance coverage

Your children have a right to health insurance coverage. We will work to make sure your children get the health insurance coverage they need if it is available at no cost or reasonable cost.

Cooperating with other states

Child support orders can be obtained and enforced, even when the other parent lives in another state.

Enforcing child support orders

The local child support agency has several ways to collect child support for your children, including:

- Withholding wages from paychecks
- Interception of:
 - State or federal income tax refunds
 - Unemployment benefits
 - Workers' compensation benefits
 - State disability benefits
 - Lottery winnings
- Bank levies (attaching bank accounts)
- License suspensions
- Levies on property
- Passport denials

Some of these enforcement actions are required by law. Others will be used depending on the facts of each case.

Referrals

If you need assistance in any of the following areas, we will provide you with referrals:

- Visitation or child custody issues
- Domestic violence
- Restraining orders
- Child abuse

Establishing child support orders

Once paternity is established, we can help you get a child support order based on each parent's income, visitation, and other information. Most orders will also include a wage assignment so money will be withheld from the noncustodial parent's paycheck to pay child support.

In certain situations, we can help you get a change in your court-ordered child support amount, which is called a "modification."

How child support payments are collected & processed is changing

Child support payments will now be processed at one location, the State Disbursement Unit (SDU). The SDU will give parents more options for how they receive and make child support payments. Parents will be notified when their county child support agency transitions to the SDU.

Local child support agencies will continue to provide direct customer service and payment information. To learn more about the SDU, contact your local child support agency or visit the DCSS website at www.childsup.ca.gov.

